

REMARKS

The indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2-18 is acknowledged and appreciated. In order to expedite prosecution, independent claims 1 and 19 have been amended, without prejudice/disclaimer to the subject matter embodied thereby, to include the allowable subject matter of claim 2. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 19 are in condition for allowance. New claims 20 and 21 are submitted to be allowable for reasons similar to claims 1 and 19, respectively, as claims 20 and 21 include allowable subject matter of claim 2. For example, as acknowledged by the Examiner, the cited prior art does not disclose or suggest a bypass transistor which can make it possible to bring a signal output line in or out of conduction in the combination of elements embodied by the claims.

According to one aspect of the present invention, the claimed combination can make it possible to obviate underexposure or shadow detail loss of an image relative to the conventional devices/processes. In this regard, the present invention can enable a preventive measure even for incident light which is much weaker than that which causes underexposure or shadow detail loss, while also making it possible to eliminate adverse effects which may arise from a change in voltage at reset. Only Applicants have recognized and considered these issues, and conceived of a novel combination which can make it possible to obviate these issues.

In sum, the cited prior art, alone or in combination, does not disclose or suggest, *inter alia*, a bypass transistor as arranged/used in the combinations set forth in the pending claims. "All words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art." *In re Wilson*, 165 USPQ 494, 496 (CCPA 1970).

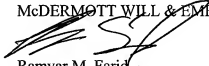
Based on the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are patentable over the cited prior art.

CONCLUSION

Having fully responded to all matters raised in the Office Action, Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, an indication for which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below. To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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